

WADER COUNTS AT THE SENEGALESE COAST IN WINTER 1978-1979

by K. De Smet and J. Van Gompel

Apart from the well-known national parks of the Saloum delta and the Djoudj, very little is known about the numbers of Palearctic waders wintering on the Senegalese coast. During a visit from 15 December 1978 to 8 January 1979 we noted some important concentrations at various places along this coast. These are given in the Table. (A full report is in preparation for publication in Malimbus, the Journal of the West African Ornithological Society.)

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Most important numbers and concentrations of palearctic waders at the Senegalese coast.

	SALOUM northern part outside the National park	Lake RETBA	Lake TANMA	Lake YOUI	LANGUE DE BABBARIE (beach, lagune)	SOMONE delta	RICHARD TOLL	BARGNY (beach, sand- banks)	JOAL FADIOUTH (beach, sandbank)	other places (beach, beach, small lakes)
Haematopus ostralegus	140								120	
Vanellus vanellus		1								
Pluvialis squatarola					65	25				
Charadrius hiaticula	small groups	50	25	160	300	50		10	60	small grps
Charadrius dubius		few			few				100	few
Charadrius alexandrinus		30			20	40		15	15	few
Arenaria interpres	at least 200				160				250	small grps
Numenius phaeopus	at least 100	12			50	20			25	few
Numenius arquata	50				1	25				
Limosa limosa		400		40			30	75		* see note
Limosa lapponica	at least 100				200	30			65	small grps
Tringa nebularia	at least 100	5-10	5-10	5-10	110	20				few
Tringa stagnatilis				3			1			
Tringa glareola	few	10	10				20-50			
Tringa ochropus							10			
Tringa hypoleucos	10-20	10-20	10-20	10	few	20-50	100			
Tringa totanus		few			few		50-100			
Tringa erythropus		2					5-10			
Gallinago gallinago		10-20	10-20	20-50						
Calidris canutus	at least 100	10-50			5-10	50		10	50	few
Calidris alpina, ferruginea, minuta	at least 5000	3000	300	250	200	500		150	1000	small grps * see note
Calidris alba		250				100			2000	3700 * note
Philomachus pugnax		2800	270	1150			hundreds	200		few * note
Himantopus himantopus		35	550							small grps.
Recurvirostra avocetta		435		650						

Notes:

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa: one bird with a Dutch ring was caught on Lake Retba.

Dunlin Calidris alpina, Curlew Sandpiper C. ferruginea, Little Stint C. minuta: the last was most common everywhere, for example, of 56 waders caught on Lake Retba, 11 were C. alpina, 12 were C. ferruginea, and 33 were C. minuta.

Sanderling Calidris alba. the sandy beaches form an appropriate wintering habitat for this species. We estimated the total number between St. Louis and the Saloum by counting different sections along the coast:
St. Louis - Dakar (150 km sandy beaches): 2500 (most important concentrations: 300 at the Senegal delta and 250 before Lake Retba);
Dakar - Saloum (100 km sandy beaches, sometimes very rich in organic materials): 3500 (most important concentration: 2000 on a 3km long beach near Joal Fadiouth);
Total number: 6000!

Ruff Philomachus pugnax: 36 were caught on Lake Retba, half of them first-year birds.

